

On this anniversary, Americans honor the brave Georgian citizens who defended freedom, and we renew our commitment to supporting Georgia's democracy, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We also look forward to the day when the light of liberty shines on all people throughout the world.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May the God who gave us liberty bless those who are advancing freedom's cause.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22. An original was not available for the verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada in Lima, Peru November 22, 2008

President Bush. I'm pleased to be with a good friend and a strong leader, Prime Minister Stephen Harper. It's been a joy to work with him, and we've accomplished a lot together. Relations between the United States and Canada are strong, sometimes complicated, but nevertheless based on common values. I appreciate your candor, your strength of character, and your consistent philosophy. So I'm looking forward to good discussions. I'm looking forward to this APEC; I think it's very important for us to continue to work together during this time of economic turmoil.

I want to thank you for coming to Washington last weekend and thank you for your solid contributions—[inaudible].

Prime Minister Harper. Well, I appreciate that, Mr. President, and I've appreciated the candor of our relationship; I've appreciated your openness. We've had many things we've agreed on and a few we haven't, but you've always been willing to listen. And Laureen and I certainly wish Laura and you all the best if I don't see you again before the 20th of January.

President Bush. Before forced retirement. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:17 a.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel Lima. Prime Minister Harper referred to his wife Laureen.

Remarks at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Summit in Lima November 22, 2008

Gracias, senor. [Laughter] What he forgot to say, Secretary Rice, is that he went to Notre Dame. She is a great supporter of Notre Dame. And thank you for having me. Laura and I are delighted to be back in your country.

This is my second trip as President. I have been looking forward to it. And I appreciate the opportunity to come and discuss the state of the financial situation with such an august group. Thank you for making the Asia-Pacific region a vibrant part of the world.